GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1273
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
BLACK BOX FOR TRAINS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 'black box' has been developed for Railways to determine the cause of disastrous train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this system is likely to be fitted in trains ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) No, Sir. In Railways, a black box device on the pattern of airlines does not exist. In air transportation, the pilot of an aeroplane is given verbal orders by the air traffic controller. As such recording of such information is useful in case of an accident for ascertaining the cause of an accident. In Railways, the train driver is guided by aspect of signals that he encounters and other documents as may be given to him and not by any verbal orders. Moreover, the speed recorder graph in the locomotive gives an indication of the speed of the train when it met with an accident. In view of this Black Box for trains is not considered useful.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.